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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,352	07/11/2003	Ernst-Walter Hillebrand	0329-0004.01	6683

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EXAMINER
MAYEKAR, KISHOR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1753

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/01/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,352

Applicant(s)

HILLEBRAND, ERNST-WALTER

Examiner

Kishor Mayekar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 January 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 14-16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 5-13, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/744,706.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/05.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election with traverse of invention of Group I, claims 5-13 on 8 January 2007 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "the subject matter of the Group II I sufficiently related to the subject matter of the Group I claims to allow for examination of all the claims together". This is not found persuasive because the record reflects that all of these groups are patentably distinct and have been properly considered.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 5 and 10 are objected to because of the following informalities: the missing --and-- for linking the last 2 steps in claims 1 and 10.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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4. Claim is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 9, the recitation "said complex former" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5, 6, 10-13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rampel (US 3,660,170) in view of Himy et al. (US 4,192,908). Rampel's invention is directed to the use of a chemical additive in zinc-containing electrolytic solutions, such as battery cells and electroplating, to inhibit the electrodeposition of dendritic zinc crystals beyond a separator membrane (col. 3, lines 14-31). Rampel also discloses in Fig. 2 that a cell containing an anode, a cathode and the separator membrane in a zinc-containing alkaline electrolyte. The differences between Rampel and the above claims are that the separator membrane is not an ion-exchange membrane and the separator membrane does

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not separate the cell into an anode compartment and a cathode compartment. Himy shows in an alkaline nickel-zinc cell that the separator membrane is known as an ion-exchange membrane (col. 1, lines 19-26) or the use of an ion-exchange separator membrane (col. 3, lines 54-60) where the ion-exchange separator membrane is placed between an anode and a cathode to separate them into an anode compartment and a cathode compartment (Figs. 1 and 2 and col. 2, lines 36-47 and lines 60-62). The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Rampel's teachings as shown by Himy because the selection of any of known equivalent arrangement of the separator membrane to inhibit the formation of dendrites would be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

As to the subject matter of claim 10, since Rampel discloses that the chemical additive is a high molecular weight organic linear polymer of substituted ammonium having monovalent positive ions (see abstract) and the monovalent position ions are moved toward the cathode 30 during the electrodeposition of zinc (Fig. 2), Rampel's disclosure comprises the recited last two steps.

Double Patenting

7. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the

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reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

8. Claims 5-13, 17 and 18 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,602,394 B2 in view of Brown (US 5,162,079). The patent claim recites an electroplating system for plating zinc-nickel coatings comprising an electroplating cell having an anode, a cathode and an alkaline electroplating bath with an alkaline electrolyte, wherein a perfluorinated cation exchange membrane separates the anode from the alkaline electrolyte surrounding the cathode and the anolyte contains a sulfuric acid. The difference between the patent claims and the above claims is that the patent claims recite a system while the above claims recite a process. Brown shows a process for electroplating metals and an apparatus thereof (see abstract). The subject matter as a whole would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the

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patent 'claims' teachings as shown by Brown because the recited process claims are an obvious variant of the patent system claims.

As to the subject matter of each of claims 8, 9 and 17, though the disclosure of the patent may not be used as prior art, however the specification can always be used as a dictionary to learn the meaning of a term in the patent claim, *In re Boylan* 157 USPQ 370. And the patent's system discloses in col. 2, lines 49-63 fits each of the recited subject matter. As such the above claims is an obvious variant of the patent claim.

Conclusion

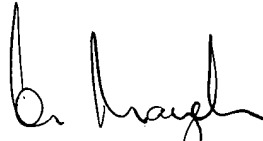
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kishor Mayekar whose telephone number is (571) 272-1339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on

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access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kishor Mayekar', is positioned above the printed name.

Kishor Mayekar
Primary Examiner
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